

**AMENDMENTS**

**In the Claims**

Please cancel claims 5-6, 9-14, 24-25, 28-37, 39, and 45-52 without prejudice.

Please amend claims 1-4, 7, 15-17, 20-23, 26, 38, and 40-43 as shown herein.

Claims 1-4, 7-8, 15-23, 26-27, 38, and 40-44 are pending and are listed following:

1. (currently amended) A network system, comprising:

a network server configured to maintain network access information corresponding to users authorized to access the network system;

a domain controller remotely located from the network server at a remote network site and communicatively linked with the network server, the domain controller configured to ~~cache the network access information~~ locally administrate access to the network system; and

the domain controller further configured to:

track individual users that request access to the network system ~~from~~ via the domain controller at the remote network site;

receive a first network access request from a user and validate the first network access request with the network access information maintained at the network server;

cache the network access information; and

receive a second network access request from the user and validate the second network access request with the network access information cached at the domain controller.

1           2.     (currently amended)     A network system as recited in claim 1,  
2 wherein the domain controller is further configured to cache the network access  
3 information only for the individual users that request access to the network system  
4 ~~from~~ via the domain controller at the remote network site.

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6           3.     (currently amended)     A network system as recited in claim 1,  
7 wherein the domain controller is further configured to update the network access  
8 information at the domain controller for the individual users that request access to  
9 the network system ~~from~~ via the domain controller at the remote network site.

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11          4.     (currently amended)     A network system as recited in claim 1,  
12 wherein the domain controller is further configured to update the network access  
13 information at the domain controller for the individual users that request access to  
14 the network system ~~from~~ via the domain controller at the remote network site  
15 within a defined time interval.

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17          5-6.    canceled  
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1           7.     (currently amended)     A network system as recited in claim 1,  
2     ~~wherein: the domain controller is further configured to receive a network access~~  
3     ~~request from a user and validate the network access request with the network~~  
4     ~~access information maintained in the network server before the domain controller~~  
5     ~~caches the network access information; and the domain controller is further~~  
6     ~~configured to receive a second network access request from the user and validate~~  
7     the second network access request with the network access information cached at  
8     the domain controller if the second network access request is within a defined time  
9     interval.

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11           8.     (original)     A network system as recited in claim 1, wherein:  
12     the network access information comprises identifiers to indicate network  
13     group memberships that an individual user is a member of in the network system;  
14     and  
15     the domain controller is further configured to maintain user objects  
16     associated with the individual users that request access to the network system from  
17     the domain controller, and cache the identifiers to the user objects.

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19           9-14.   canceled  
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1 15. (currently amended) A network, comprising:  
2 a global information server configured to maintain network information  
3 corresponding to users of the network;

4 a remote server communicatively linked with the global information server,  
5 the remote server configured to:

6 receive a first network access request from a user and validate the  
7 first network access request with the network information maintained at the  
8 global information server;

9 cache the network information;

10 receive a second network access request from the user and validate  
11 the second network access request with the network information cached at  
12 the remote server;

13 track individual users that request access to the network from the  
14 remote server; and

15 update the network information cached at the remote server for the  
16 individual users that access the network from the remote server.

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18 16. (currently amended) A network as recited in claim 15,  
19 wherein the remote server is further configured to update the network information  
20 cached at the remote server for the individual users that access the network from  
21 the remote server within a defined time interval.

1        17. (currently amended) A network as recited in claim 15,  
2 wherein the remote server is further configured to ~~receive a user request to access~~  
3 ~~the network and~~ validate the second network access user request with the network  
4 information cached at the remote server if the user accessed the network from the  
5 remote server within a defined time interval.

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7        18. (original) A network as recited in claim 15, wherein the remote  
8 server is further configured to track individual users that request access to the  
9 network information cached at the remote server.

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11        19. (original) A network as recited in claim 15, wherein the remote  
12 server is further configured to receive a user request to access the network  
13 information cached at the remote server and validate the user request if the user  
14 accessed the network from the remote server within a defined time interval.  
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1           **20. (currently amended)**      A method, comprising:  
2            maintaining, at a first site, network access information at a first network  
3 site, the network access information identifying that identifies users authorized to  
4 access a network;  
5            validating a first network access request from a user at a second network  
6 site with the network access information maintained at the first network site;  
7            caching the network access information at a the second network site; and  
8            validating a second network access request from the user at the second  
9 network site with the network access information cached at the second network  
10 site; and  
11            tracking individual user requests to access the network from the second  
12 network site.

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14           **21. (currently amended)**      A method as recited in claim 20, wherein  
15 said caching comprises storing the network access information at the second  
16 network site only for the individual users that request access to the network from  
17 the second network site.

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19           **22. (currently amended)**      A method as recited in claim 20, further  
20 comprising updating the network access information at the second network site for  
21 the individual users that periodically request access to the network from the  
22 second network site.  
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23. (currently amended) A method as recited in claim 20, further comprising updating the network access information at the second network site for the individual users that request access to the network from the second network site within a defined time interval.

24-25. canceled

26. (currently amended) A method as recited in claim 20, further comprising:

~~validating a network access request from a user at the second site with the network access information maintained at the first site, wherein said validating occurs before said caching; and~~

~~validating a second network access request from the user at the second site, wherein said validating the second network access request comprises validating the second network access request with the network access information cached at the second network site if the second network access request is within a defined time interval.~~

27. (original) A computer-readable medium comprising computer executable instructions that, when executed, direct a computing system to perform the method of claim 20.

28-37. canceled

1           **38. (currently amended)**       A method, comprising:

2           ~~maintaining, at a network global information server,~~ network information at  
3 a global information server, the network information corresponding to users of the  
4 network;

5           receiving a first network access request from a user at a remote server  
6 communicatively linked with the global information server;

7           validating the first network access request at the remote server with the  
8 network information maintained at the global information server;

9           caching the network information at a the remote server;

10          receiving a second network access request from the user at the remote  
11 server;

12          validating the second network access request at the remote server with the  
13 network information cached at the remote server;

14          tracking users that request access to the network via the remote server; and

15          updating the network information cached at the remote server with the  
16 network information maintained at the global information server for users  
17 authorized to access the network from the remote server, and that accessed the  
18 remote server within a defined time interval.

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20           **39. canceled**



1           **40. (currently amended)**      A method as recited in claim 38, further  
2 ~~comprising:~~

3           ~~receiving a user request to access the network; and wherein said validating~~  
4 the second network access request comprises validating the user second network  
5 access request with the network information cached at the remote server if the  
6 second network access request is received within a defined time interval.

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8           **41. (currently amended)**      A method as recited in claim 38, further  
9 comprising:

10           tracking users that access the ~~cached~~ network information cached at the  
11 remote server; and

12           updating the network information cached at the remote server with the  
13 network information maintained at the global information server for users  
14 authorized to access the network information from the remote server, and that  
15 accessed the network information cached at the remote server within a defined  
16 time interval.

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18           **42. (currently amended)**      A method as recited in claim 38, further  
19 comprising:

20           receiving a user request to access the network information cached at the  
21 remote server; and

22           validating the user request at the remote server.

1           **43. (currently amended)**     A method as recited in claim 38, further  
2 comprising:

3           receiving a user request to access the network information cached at the  
4 remote server; and

5           validating the user request at the remote server if the user request is  
6 received within a defined time interval.

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8           **44. (original)**     A computer-readable medium comprising computer  
9 executable instructions that, when executed, direct a computing system to perform  
10 the method of claim 38.

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12           **45-52. canceled**  
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